United Nations A/66/445/Add.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 November 2011

Original: English

Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 24 (a)

Operational activities for development: operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Raymond **Landveld** (Suriname)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 24 (see A/66/445, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 21st and 36th meetings, on 24 October and 22 November 2011. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/66/SR.21 and 36).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/66/L.6 and A/C.2/66/L.54

2. At the 21st meeting, on 24 October, the representative of Argentina, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (A/C.2/66/L.6), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, its resolution 63/232 of 19 December 2008 on operational activities for development, its resolution 64/220 of 21 December 2009 on operational activities for development of the United Nations system, its resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on system-wide coherence, its resolution 65/177 of 20 December 2010 on operational activities for development of the

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in three parts, under the symbol A/66/445 and Add.1 and 2.

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United Nations system, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 2008/2 of 18 July 2008, 2009/1 of 22 July 2009, 2010/22 of 23 July 2010 and 2011/7 of 18 July 2011 on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208,

"*Recalling also* the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

"*Acknowledging* the importance of delivering assistance in order to overcome the challenges to improving human life by implementing resolution 62/208,

"*Recalling* the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system so as to ensure that policy orientations established by the General Assembly are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/16 of 20 November 2006 and 62/208 and other relevant resolutions,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2011,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2009, recalls the section of resolution 64/289 on improving the funding system of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for enhanced system-wide coherence and looks forward to its implementation, and notes the progress made in broadening and improving reporting, in line with paragraph 28 of resolution 62/208;

"2. *Reaffirms* that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of programme countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities are carried out for the benefit of programme countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development;

"3. *Underscores* that there is no 'one size fits all' approach to development and that development assistance by the United Nations development system should be able to respond to the varying development needs of programme countries and should be in alignment with their national development plans and strategies in accordance with its mandates;

"4. *Stresses* that core resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and, in that regard, notes with concern the growing imbalance between core and non-core funding of operational activities of the United Nations system;

"5. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening strategies for operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in order to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, especially in the least developed countries and other developing countries that are lagging behind in meeting the targets;

"6. *Reaffirms* the increased importance of South-South cooperation, and in that regard encourages the funds, programmes, specialized agencies and other relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to mainstream support to South-South and triangular cooperation;

"7. *Takes note*, in that context, of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its sixteenth session and looks forward to the outcome of its seventeenth session, to be held in 2012;

"8. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council decision 2009/214 of 22 July 2009 on operational activities for development and Council resolutions 2010/22 and 2011/7 on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208, and expresses appreciation for the guidance provided by the Council on the further implementation of Assembly resolution 62/208 as contained in Council resolution 2010/22 and for the guidelines for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2012 contained in Council resolution 2011/7;

"9. *Also recalls* that, in its resolution 63/232, the General Assembly decided to hold its next comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in 2012 and subsequent reviews on a quadrennial basis, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to postpone to its sixty-seventh session the submission, through the Economic and Social Council, of the comprehensive analysis of the implementation of resolution 62/208, to be prepared in accordance with the guidance contained in paragraph 143 of that resolution."

3. At its 36th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Operational activities for development of the United Nations system" (A/C.2/66/L.54), submitted by the Vice-Chair of the Committee, Bitrus Vandy Yohanna (Nigeria), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.6.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.54 (see para. 9).

6. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the Vice-Chair (Nigeria) (A/C.2/66/SR.36).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Argentina, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (see A/C.2/66/SR.36).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.54, draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.6 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/208 of 19 December 2007, 63/232 of 19 December 2008, 64/220 of 21 December 2009, 64/289 of 2 July 2010 and 65/177 of 20 December 2010, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 2008/2 of 18 July 2008, 2009/1 of 22 July 2009, 2010/22 of 23 July 2010 and 2011/7 of 18 July 2011,

Recalling also the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and its outcome document,[1]

Reaffirming the importance of the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

Acknowledging the importance of delivering assistance in order to overcome the challenges to improving human life by implementing resolution 62/208,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system so as to ensure that policy orientations established by the General Assembly are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/16 of 20 November 2006, 62/208 and other relevant resolutions,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Economic and Social Council at the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2011,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2009,[3] recalls the section of resolution 64/289 on improving the funding system of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for enhanced system-wide coherence and looks forward to its implementation, and notes the progress made in broadening and improving reporting, in line with paragraph 28 of resolution 62/208;

2. *Recognizes* the importance of strengthening strategies for operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in order to contribute to the

[1] See resolution 65/1.

[2] Reports of the Secretary-General on the results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 62/208 (E/2011/112); analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2009 (A/66/79-E/2011/107); functioning of the resident coordinator system, including costs and benefits (E/2011/86); and simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system (E/2011/88).

[3] A/66/79-E/2011/107.

achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, especially in the least developed countries and other developing countries that are lagging behind in meeting the targets;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its sixteenth session,[4] and looks forward to the outcome of its seventeenth session, to be held in 2012;

4. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council decision 2009/214 of 22 July 2009 on operational activities for development and Council resolutions 2010/22 and 2011/7 on progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208, and expresses appreciation for the guidance provided by the Council on the further implementation of Assembly resolution 62/208 as contained in Council resolution 2010/22 and for the guidelines for the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2012 contained in Council resolution 2011/7;

5. *Also recalls* that, in its resolution 63/232, the General Assembly decided to hold its next comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system in 2012 and subsequent reviews on a quadrennial basis, and reiterates its request to the Secretary-General to postpone to its sixty-seventh session the submission, through the Economic and Social Council, of the comprehensive analysis of the implementation of resolution 62/208, to be prepared in accordance with the guidance contained in paragraph 143 of that resolution.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/65/39).